THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, harmonisation of facilities extended to employees of both the erstwhile Companies has been taken up by National Aviation Company of India Limited in order to ensure uniformity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Aircrafts in the country

2343. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of aircraft both in Government and Private Sector being operated in India and from India;

(b) whether there is any shortage of pilots; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Merger of Air India and I.A.

2344. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved any of the goals of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines during the first year of its merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* goals of merger;

(c) whether it is a fact that flying by Air India is comparatively costlier than the other domestic private flight operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India into National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) on 27.8.2007 the integration process of different spheres of work has been initiated and the full integration would be achieved over two to three years. Benefits from the merger have already started flowing in the form of savings in procurement of fuel, insurance costs, network integration etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The fares offered by Air India are competitive and are based on market considerations such as fares offered by competitors, seasonability, product features like frequency, timings, direct/indirect operations etc.

Trespassing in Airports

†2345. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.